

The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

A. D. GNAGLEY, : : Editor.

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Editorial.

TO THE CHURCHES OF INDIANA.

This letter is addressed to the lay members of the churches of Indiana, or rather to the local congregations. In this issue we publish the program for the Ministerial Association of your State. Your best and most faithful pastors are greatly interested in the success of the Association. Are you equally interested? This brief letter is addressed to you with a view of awakening such an interest on the part of the laity. The program is an excellent one, and if carried out will result in great good. We cannot speak too highly of this program. It is comprehensive, covering a wide field, and yet thoroughly practical. Now there is no reason why you should not feel as much interested in the work as your pastors, or even more so. Perhaps you have persuaded yourself that you need have no interest in this meeting, that it is intended for your ministers only. Permit us to say that *you* as churches will derive more lasting benefit from these meetings than your pastors will. Anything that helps your pastor, that prepares him more thoroughly for his work, directly benefits you.

But you may ask, What can *we* do for this meeting? It is a minister's meeting and ministers only are placed on the program. Well, you can see to it that your pastor gets the benefit of this meeting. Every minister in the State of Indiana should be present at the coming session of the Association. There are two things you can do. First, give your pastor a Sabbath off without any pecuniary loss to himself. Urge him to attend the Association. Second, if your pastor cannot afford to attend this meeting, offer to pay his railroad fare. Why should your pastor bear all the financial responsibility, when *you* are benefitted as much as *he* is. Suppose his expenses to be fifteen dollars. There are sixty members in your congregation. That would mean twenty-five cents per member, a very small sum, indeed, but fifteen dollars may be a large

sum for your pastor. Why not share this responsibility? *You* are to be benefitted as well as *he*. We look for great results from this meeting, and hope pastor and people will unite in making it a success. Brother Furry has written a very earnest letter to the ministers of Indiana. This letter is to the laity, and unsolicited.

DOES NOT PROHIBIT.

The objection usually offered against the prohibition of the liquor traffic is that prohibition does not prohibit. As a rule this objection is made by the enemies of temperance, and in this they acknowledge their lawlessness. If it means anything it means that liquor men have no regard for law, that they are lawless. It means that if the State enacts a law forbidding the manufacture and sale of liquor, they will sell in spite of the law. What is this, but lawlessness. Men who traffic in the abominable liquor business are not good citizens and cannot be. The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that the liquor business is a nuisance and that any law prohibiting its manufacture and sale is entirely in harmony with both the letter and the spirit of the constitution. If then the liquor men declare such a law to be non-effective, it is because they make it so, because they defy the law, deliberately violate it, and thus acknowledge themselves criminals.

But is it really true that prohibition does not prohibit? To make a test of the matter some one went into a certain town in Kansas and endeavored to get a drink of whiskey. He was refused everywhere. The "stuff" was not sold. Being determined to make a thorough test of the case, he inquired if there was not some one in town who would help him to a drink. He was directed to Mr. A. who took him out of town into a cemetery and there behind a large monument, he unscrewed his cork leg which was hollow, and out of it he poured a drink of whiskey for the thirsty man. If prohibition compels people to keep their liquor in a cork leg and dispense it in a cemetery, to our mind it comes very near being a success. But it is useless to argue the case. The man who claims that prohibition does not prohibit is the man who likes liquor and hates temperance.

Here is what the *Christian Advocate* of Atlanta, Ga., says of prohibition in that city:

"Prohibition in this city does prohibit.

The law is observed as well as the law against carrying concealed weapons, gambling, and other offenses of like character. If there had been as many people in favor of carrying concealed weapons, theft, gambling, etc., as there was in favor of the retail of ardent spirits twelve months ago, law against these things would not have been carried out as well as it was against the liquor trade. In consideration of the small majority with which prohibition was carried, and the large number of people who were opposed to seeing it prohibited, the law has been marvelously well observed. Prohibition has not injured the city financially. According to the assessor's books, property in the city has increased over \$2,000,000. Taxes have not been increased. Two streets in the city, Decatur and Peters, were known as liquor streets. It was hardly considered proper for a lady to walk these streets without an escort. Now they are just as orderly as any in the city. Property on them has advanced ten to twenty-five per cent. The loss of \$40,000 revenue consequent on closing the saloons has tended in no degree to impede the city's progress in any direction. Large appropriations have been made to the water works, the public schools, the Piedmont fair, and other improvements. The business men have raised \$400,000 to build the Atlanta & Hawkinsville Railroad. The number of city banks is to be increased to five. The coming of four new railroads has been settled during the year. Fifteen new stores, containing house-furnishing goods, have been started since prohibition went into effect. These are doing well. More furniture has been sold to mechanics and laboring men in the last twelve months than any twelve months during the history of the city. The manufacturing establishments of the city have received new life. A glass factory has been built. A cotton-seed oil mill has been built worth \$125,000. All improvement companies, with a basis in real estate, have seen their stock double in value since the election on prohibition."

BRO. J. A. MILLER preached in the M. E. church Sabbath morning.

BRO. IRA SLOTTER, of North Ontario, Cal., arrived at Ashland on Wednesday morning.

THE Brethren church of Pittsburg will hold communion services, Thursday evening, June 25, at 8 P. M. All within reach of the city are invited to join with the brethren in their feast of love.